

Appl. No. 09/920,583
Amdt. Dated 12/11/2006
Reply to Office action of 09/20/2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A client terminal connectable to a video distribution system and a display device, the video distribution system provides program guide information to create a program guide that includes program guide entries for subscribed channels and non-subscribed channels, the client terminal comprising:
 - a video distribution system interface to receive the program guide information;
 - a display interface to display the program guide on the display device;
 - a user interface to receive user input; and
 - a terminal controller responsive to a subscription control program for:
 - a. in response to user input, selecting a program guide entry from the program guide; and
 - b. upon selection of a program guide entry that is for a non-subscribed channel,
 - i. recommending at least one bundle of channels for subscription by the user based upon a subscription matrix for the user, the currently selected program guide entry for the non-subscribed channel displayed in the program guide, and available bundles of channels for subscription;
 - ii. accepting user input to select a bundle of channels for subscription by the user; and
 - iii. transmitting a subscription request for the selected bundle of channels to the video distribution system.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, the video distribution system after receipt of the subscription request for the selected bundle of channels verifies a user's credit with a billing system to determine whether the user's credit is approved or disapproved for the

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selected bundle of channels, the terminal controller responsive to the subscription control program for:

- a. receiving the approval or disapproval from the video distribution system; and
- b. if the user's credit is approved,
 - i. updating the subscription matrix to reflect that the client terminal is now subscribed to the selected bundle of channels; and
 - ii. authorizing access to the selected bundle of channels.

4. (Original) The client terminal of claim 3, wherein the subscription matrix is stored both locally at the client terminal and remotely at the video distribution system.

5. (Original) The client terminal of claim 3, wherein, the subscription matrix includes a client terminal I.D. designating the associated client terminal, channels subscribed to by the client terminal, and available channels not subscribed to by the client terminal.

6. (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, the selected bundle of channels is the most cost effective bundle of channels having a subscription cost that is less than the subscription cost of individually subscribing to the non-subscribed channel.

7. (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, further comprising a preference engine, wherein the preference engine selects program guide entries for non-subscribed channels for display in the program guide based upon a user's viewing patterns.

8. (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, the client terminal is coupled to the video distribution system by a link that provides a persistent connection.

9. (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, a channel includes a tier of channels.

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10. (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, a channel includes a computer network channel.

11. (Previously Presented) The client terminal of claim 1, further comprising, selecting only a program of the program guide entry of a non-subscribed channel for subscription in selecting the bundle of channels.

12. (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, the video distribution system is a cable head end.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied in a computer readable storage medium for use in a client terminal connectable to a video distribution system and a display device, the video distribution system provides program guide information to create a program guide that includes program guide entries for subscribed channels and non-subscribed channels, the computer program comprising code segments for:

- a. in response to user input, selecting a program guide entry from the program guide; and
- b. upon selection of a program guide entry that is for a non-subscribed channel,
 - i. recommending at least one bundle of channels for subscription by the user based upon a subscription matrix for the user, the currently selected program guide entry for the non-subscribed channel displayed in the program guide, and available bundles of channels for subscription;
 - ii. accepting user input to select a bundle of channels for subscription by the user; and
 - iii. transmitting a subscription request for the selected bundle of channels to the video distribution system.

14. (Canceled)

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15. (Original) The computer program of claim 13, wherein, the video distribution system after receipt of the subscription request for the selected bundle of channels verifies a user's credit with a billing system to determine whether the user's credit is approved or disapproved for the selected bundle of channels, further comprising code segments for:

- a. receiving the approval or disapproval from the video distribution system; and
- b. if the user's credit is approved,
 - i. updating the subscription matrix to reflect that the client terminal is now subscribed to the selected bundle of channels; and
 - ii. authorizing access to the selected bundle of channels.

16. (Original) The computer program of claim 15, wherein the subscription matrix is stored both locally at the client terminal and remotely at the video distribution system.

17. (Original) The computer program of claim 15, wherein, the subscription matrix includes a client terminal I.D. designating the associated client terminal, channels subscribed to by the client terminal, and available channels not subscribed to by the client terminal.

18. (Original) The computer program of claim 13, wherein, the selected bundle of channels is the most cost effective bundle of channels having a subscription cost that is less than the subscription cost of individually subscribing to the non-subscribed channel.

19. (Original) The computer program of claim 13, further comprising code segments for:

- a. displaying a promotion display for a bundle of channels
- b. in response to user input, selecting the promotion display; and
- c. transmitting a subscription request for the bundle of channels to the video distribution system.

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20. (Original) The computer program of claim 13, further comprising code segments for selecting program guide entries for non-subscribed channels for display in the program guide based upon a user's viewing patterns.

21. (Original) The computer program of claim 13, wherein, the client terminal is coupled to the video distribution system by a link that provides a persistent connection.

22. (Original) The computer program of claim 13, wherein, a channel includes a tier of channels.

23. (Original) The computer program of claim 13, wherein, a channel includes a computer network channel.

24. (Original) The computer program of claim 13, further comprising code segments for selecting only a program of the program guide entry on a non-subscribed channel for subscription in selecting the bundle of channels.

25. (Original) The computer program of claim 13, wherein, the video distribution system is a cable head end.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a bundle of channels utilizing a program guide, the program guide including program guide entries for subscribed channels and non-subscribed channels, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. in response to user input received at a client terminal, selecting a program guide entry from the program guide;
- b. upon selection of a program guide entry that is for a non-subscribed channel,
 1. performing processing at the client terminal to recommend at least one bundle of channels for subscription by the user based upon a subscription matrix for the user, the currently selected program guide entry for the non-subscribed channel displayed in the program guide, and available bundles of channels for subscription;

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2. accepting user input to select a bundle of channels for subscription by the user; and
3. transmitting a subscription request for the selected bundle of channels from the client terminal to a video distribution system.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein, the video distribution system after receipt of the subscription request for the selected bundle of channels verifies a user's credit with a billing system to determine whether the user's credit is approved or disapproved for the selected bundle of channels, further comprising steps for:

- a. receiving the approval or disapproval from the video distribution system; and
- b. if the user's credit is approved,
 - i. updating the subscription matrix to reflect that the client terminal is now subscribed to the selected bundle of channels; and
 - ii. authorizing access to the selected bundle of channels.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the subscription matrix is stored both locally at the client terminal and remotely at the video distribution system.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein, the subscription matrix includes a client terminal I.D. designating the associated client terminal, channels subscribed to by the client terminal, and available channels not subscribed to by the client terminal.

31. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein, the selected bundle of channels is the most cost effective bundle of channels having a subscription cost that is less than the subscription cost of individually subscribing to the non-subscribed channel.

32. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising steps for:
- a. displaying a promotion for a bundle of channels

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- b. in response to user input, selecting the promotion display; and
- c. transmitting a subscription request for the bundle of channels to the video distribution system.

33. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of selecting program guide entries for non-subscribed channels for display in the program guide based upon a user's viewing patterns.

34. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein, the client terminal is coupled to the video distribution system by a link that provides a persistent connection.

35. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein, a channel includes a tier of channels.

36. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein, a channel includes a computer network channel.

37. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of selecting only a program of the program guide entry on a non-subscribed channel for subscription in selecting the bundle of channels.

38. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein, the video distribution system is a cable head end.

39.-44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A client terminal connectable to a video distribution system and a display device, the video distribution system provides promotion information to create a promotion display that advertises a bundle of channels, the client terminal comprising:
a video distribution system interface to receive the promotion information;

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a preference engine to create a user profile based upon user viewing preferences;

a display interface to display a promotion display for a bundle of channels on the display device, wherein the promotion display is automatically presented as part of the program guide and is selected by a the preference engine based upon a user's viewing patterns the user profile;

a user interface to receive user input; and

a terminal controller responsive to a subscription control program for:

- a. in response to user input, selecting a promotion display for a bundle of channels; and
- b. transmitting a subscription request for the selected bundle of channels to the video distribution system.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Original) The client terminal of claim 45, wherein, the video distribution system after receipt of the subscription request for the selected bundle of channels verifies a user's credit with a billing system to determine whether the user's credit is approved or disapproved for the selected bundle of channels, the terminal controller responsive to the subscription control program for:

- a. receiving the approval or disapproval from the video distribution system; and
- b. if the user's credit is approved,
 - i. updating a subscription matrix to reflect that the client terminal is now subscribed to the selected bundle of channels; and
 - ii. authorizing access to the selected bundle of channels.

48. (Original) The client terminal of claim 47, wherein the subscription matrix is stored both locally at the client terminal and remotely at the video distribution system.

49. (Original) The client terminal of claim 48, wherein, the subscription matrix includes a client terminal I.D. designating the associated client terminal, channels subscribed to by the client terminal, and available channels not subscribed to by the client terminal.

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50. (Original) The client terminal of claim 45, wherein, the client terminal is coupled to the video distribution system by a link that provides a persistent connection.

51. (Original) The client terminal of claim 45, wherein, a channel includes a tier of channels.

52. (Original) The client terminal of claim 45, wherein, a channel includes a computer network channel.